

THE SYNDICALIST

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WHOLE NO. 57

The Passing Show

THE CHEAPEST SHALL BE DEAREST.

Another of those periodical horrors of the mining industry has happened. The Finleyville Mine consumed a hundred miners at a gulp. Miners are cheap—they cost nothing.

The only thing under heaven's blue vaults that comes without price—begging you to take him—is a working man. This levels the white man with the black, the yellow and the brown.

Why should we be so particular then about preserving their lives, since they are so plentiful and so cheap? That is the question sordid business asks itself. And the answer is a mine explosion and a shirt factory fire, a train wreck and a ship wreck, and a million crippled railroad and factory workers to supplement the heap of dead.

For the object of business is profit. And the purpose of profit is luxury and ease.

The mansion and the auto are far removed from the mine explosion, and it is gruesome business to trace their connection. To follow the invisible line from the diamond tiara on the head of Miss Vanity Fair back to the crisped and mangled forms of the dead in the Finleyville mine—that is not the task of Miss Fair to do.

She is not interested in making her life uncomfortable. She wants to add to the number and variety of her pleasures. She wants to lengthen the days and the nights that their joys may be prolonged.

It is not her business; it is not the business of sordid business to look after the miners' safety and happiness. They don't purposely make the mines unsafe, but they are not interested in that kind of philanthropy. They are interested in getting profits and diamonds. They are not their brother's keepers, at least not of the brothers so low down in the scale as the miners.

Of course they will be a little disturbed that the miners should be killed in *their* mine. If the slaughter took place in the mine near by they would pass over quickly to the society page.

I have no blame for this. I merely explain. It is human nature planted in an environment favorable to the culture of that sort of human fruit.

Who, then, can be interested in making the mines and the factories safe and healthy? Why the miners and the factory workers, of course. It is their health and happiness that is involved. It is their lives and liberties that are at stake; and no one else can be depended upon to safeguard them but themselves.

For ages they have depended upon the philanthropy, upon the goodness of employers. They are learning now that the individual interests of men is the motive power behind their actions. And this is the greatest discovery the working class has ever made. Once getting it firmly implanted in their minds they will know just what to expect from a man when they know his economic and social standing.

They will lose all faith in capitalists and near-capitalists. They will distrust the professional "friend" of labor, and they will necessarily develop a self-reliance and a class solidarity that will make them masters of their own destiny.

Then there will be no more mine explosions. If they cannot be made safe places to work in the mines will be closed entirely and we will turn elsewhere for our motive power. For then a worker's life will not be the cheapest thing on earth, but the dearest.

THE BELGIAN STRIKE, WON?

The Belgian strike is over. That is all I can safely say for it now. That is all I may be able to say for years. I may live to learn the verdict and I may not. The government agreed to have a commission take up the matter and draw up a bill along the lines of the general strike demand. There is no assurance it will ever pass such a bill.

I am inclined to think the socialists fell too easily. They may again have to resort to the "dark age weapon," the general strike, before they get a chance to "strike at the ballot box."

I am sure it was with extreme reluctance, and only as "the last resort of desperation," that the leaders of the social democracy soiled their dainty fingers with such rough stuff as the general strike. As it was, they handled it very gently, and cast it aside when the government but winked at them, like he, who, having once attained the uppermost round, turns his back upon the ladder, scorning the base degrees by which he ascended.

At any rate I shall be glad if the Belgian workers get equal suffrage without any further delay. I would have them learn for themselves what I believe to be true, to wit: that *a strike at the ballot box is not a strike at the money box.*

ARCH TRAITOR TO BE FREE.

Ortie McManigal is one of the most despicable creatures of the age; a craven coward who feared to take the consequences of his own acts; a knavish, unprincipled skunk, without a spark of manhood, who betrayed his comrades in order to save his own corrupt hide; a vile thing without the soul of a louse, moving about in the mask of a man.

This object we learn is to be released from prison as a reward for his viciousness.

But will he ever be free? The fear of retribution will follow him to the grave. He traded all that is dear to man for a shadow. He has been cheated.

There is some freedom for him inside the jail. There will be none outside. The dispatch says he will make his way promptly to some place where he is unknown. He cannot go where he will be unknown to himself.

He is, no doubt, pondering now over the fate of another historical traitor, Cary, who betrayed his Irish revolutionary comrades into the noose of the British hangman; of how they packed him, disguised as a woman, where he would be "unknown," and of how retribution reached him before he landed in Australia.

PROGRESS AND THE PESSIMIST.

Let the pessimist, who has predicted the early downfall of the A. F. of L., sit on this right quick. The A. F. of L. has passed the two million mark; an increase of a quarter of a million since its last convention, in November.

Do you think the pessimist is going to be crushed by this weight of numbers? Not much.

I see him crawling out from under it all twisted and bent, propounding a brand new theory, which is that the capitalists have conspired to defeat the sudden and beneficent effect of his other theory upon the working class.

The swift growth of the labor unions is the result of a fast awakening going on in the ranks of labor and the active efforts put forward by the unions to take advantage of it. The tactic being put into effect now in Pennsylvania, of gathering the organizers of all unions into a district and cleaning it up with one big round of agitation, is a winner, and will no doubt be applied systematically to every section of the country. It is a means of organization Syndicalists can well boost. It has mass and force to it, the things that, with activity, make the world move.

But the pessimist says the capitalists are behind it. I hope they are, and so very far they'll never catch up.

SOMETHING ROTTEN IN D—.

An editor, renowned for the flavor of this bunk, effected to believe that this paper thinks the United Mine Workers' Union "an adjunct of the capitalist class," and forthwith dug into its hide. The advertising will help considerable, for there is nothing a new labor paper needs more. That is not all, however, I am thankful for. The screed means something more. It emphasizes the urgent need for Syndicalist activity in the W. F. of M.

For, where there is an editor so dull or indifferent as not to understand a plain proposition in English, or so crooked he will purposely misconstrue it, I say there is something rotten in Denver, and it is about time to make a cleanup.

GOING TOO FAR.

A celebrated Chicago surgeon, Doctor Murphy, says that 600,000 deaths in the United States can be prevented and nearly two billions saved each year if the proper precautions were taken against disease. He blames his own profession for not teaching the principle of prevention to the people.

The doctor is unreasonable. A limited amount of philanthropy and public spiritedness is, no doubt, to be expected from the time-honored profession of medicine. But to expect it to teach how to avoid disease and thereby annihilate itself, is exceeding the speed limit.

MORE JAILING FOR WORKERS.

A number of strike leaders in Paterson, including Bill Haywood, have been indicted on the charge of inciting riot, which shows the strike of the silk workers is a good job. If it wasn't, there would be no arrests. Arrests of this sort is a sabotage used by the bosses. It drains our pockets for lawyers' fees.

Closing their headquarters and locking some women up is not going to settle the woman question for John Bull. It will only get him in worse.

A jail never yet settled a question for very long.

The high cost of going up will come down if Professor Wilson has his way. Bibles are on his tariff free list.

JAY FOX.

THE SYNDICALIST

FORMERLY THE AGITATOR

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**They that can give up essential liberty to obtain
a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor
safety.—Franklin.**

SYNDICALISM; A WORKING-CLASS CONCEPTION OF SOCIALISM.

II.

The best-known French Socialist leaders, as Guesde, Valiant, Jaurès, and even the revolutionary Hervé, always assert that the Socialist side of the Syndicalist programme has been taken from them. But if we compare Syndicalist formulas with any Socialist or radical schools we find that if they are related to any it is with the great French peasant Socialist, J. P. Proudhon, who in his "L'Idee Generale de la Revolution" says, "to melt, to merge, to dissolve the political or governmental system into an economic one by reducing, simplifying, decentralizing, and abolishing one after the other, all the parts of the enormous machine, called government or state."

"On the other hand, the device of the parliamentary Socialist, "by political action to arrive at a social transformation," is nearly word by word a repetition of the Radical creed before the revolution of 1848, as expressed by the great Radical leader, Ledru-Rollin, the ardent advocate of universal suffrage, which he introduced during the revolution of 1848: "The tendencies distinguishing the Democratic party from others are that it strives to arrive by politics at a social transformation."

As the origin of the ideas of French Syndicalism can be traced to Proudhon, those of English Syndicalism can be directly attributed to Robert Owen and the Owenite movement (1825-40). The Owenites understood quite well that the so-called labor legislation and political reforms, as insurance against accidents, co-partnerships, etc., were palliatives, as Thompson said in his "Labor Rewarded" (1827). From whom the Owenites expected the real solution of the social problem may be seen from the following words of Thompson: "Industrious classes * * * whose voice has never been consulted in regulating their destinies, are now learning their own interests and their importance as rational beings; they will soon speak out; and thenceforward they alone will regulate human affairs, essentially their affairs."

Robert Owen's declaration at a great meeting in 1833 was as categorical and clear: "The source of wealth is labor. Wealth will remain in the hands of the workers when they act in concert to this end."

We wish the newly started English Syndicalist movement the same success as was enjoyed by the Owenite movement at that period, when the Owenite General Union of Productive Classes had more than 500,000 members, among whom were many agricultural laborers' unions, as well as working women's organizations.

But Proudhon's Mutualism, as well as the Owenite movement, were diverted from their economic action by political movements, as, for instance, Chartism. This will not be the case with Syndicalism, with its direct action against capitalism and the state. To act against the state means to attack, to destroy its political institutions, and to substitute for the state organization the industrial unions of the producing classes.

Robert Owen and Proudhon were both children of the people, and, till they succeeded with their work, lived the life of the poor. They knew, there-

fore, by experience that the people's idea of social justice is simply to liberate the producer from legalized or non-legalized robbery by capitalists, state or church, and to allow him to dispose freely of his entire produce.

Except Robert Owen and Proudhon, the founders of all other Socialist schools were men belonging to the privileged classes; and in order to demonstrate the possibility of their teachings they were always obliged to have recourse to various political, religious and philosophical arguments. So Saint-Simon and his school preached the organization of industry by the state, with, as they called it, Neo-Christian morality as a guide. Fourier and his followers based their conception of social justice on the historical development of mankind and on human nature. Louis Blanc's project of organization of production, as well as that of other authoritarian communists, was founded on the state in the role of reformer and benefactor. The same is the case with the present widespread doctrines of social democracy, which are argued and defended in the name of the interests of the state.

All those Socialist theories, when not conceived by workers themselves, had to find the justification for their proposals in the most abstract, would-be scientific and philosophic reasoning; and some Socialist thinkers—as Marx—elaborated such a complicated mixture of dialectical metaphysics that the party itself is split up into different camps, and, just as it is with Christian theology, each pretends to be the only true orthodox exponent of their teacher.

In order to convince a member of the privileged classes, imbued with the prejudices of his position, of the immorality of appropriating the produce of other people's labor, it was perhaps necessary to enter into an elaborate explanation; but a worker, a peasant without philosophy or political economy, knows perfectly well that in justice the whole produce of work ought to belong to the producer. That is why the Syndicalist formula, the statute of the French Confederation of Labor, expressing this popular idea of social justice, is so short, clear and convincing: "To organize, outside all political parties, all the workers conscious of the struggle for the abolition of the wage system and employers."

For people with such a fundamental conception of Socialism there is no need to create new doctrines to prove their rights; their whole attention is absorbed by the vital problem how to realize their idea of social justice. Once this question of realization had arisen, the workers recognized the necessity—(1) to organize production, which means to create a union or Syndicate of each branch of production; (2) to place the use and destination of the produce entirely under the control of the producing collectivity—the union; (3) to let the exchange and consumption of the produce of all branches of industries be controlled by the confederation of all the unions of producers themselves.

Once this conception of popular Socialism was formulated, the logical conclusion was drawn, that the contemporary state organization, with its millions of non-producing officials, must disappear, and give place to the confederal delegations of the syndicates, whether local, provincial or national, thus realizing Proudhon's prophecy, "L'atelier fera disparaître le gouvernement"—("The workshop will triumph over the state").

Our comrades in France during the last fifteen years have worked in this direction; they created a powerful organization of 600,000 members united on this basis. That is why French Syndicalism has taken the lead in the international working-class movement. Syndicalism itself in reality meant till recent years simple trade unionism, and as such the trade unions of England and Germany are more powerful, richer and more numerous than those of France; but they never dared to touch the fundamental popular conception of social justice—to keep the whole produce for the producer; they thought that Socialism must and can be realized only by the state and parliamentary action. But the French Syndicalists dared to affirm the possibility of realizing Socialism by the direct action of the working classes themselves. By this declaration the French Syndicalist organization ceased to be a simple trade union movement, and became a new independent and truly popular Socialist party.

"FREEDOM," LONDON.

Send in a quarter and try THE SYNDICALIST for three months. It will improve your mental health.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF CHICAGO

Meetings every Friday evening in Colonial Hall, Paulina and Taylor Sts. Talks on labor topics. Come up.

The bread and cake bakers of this city have secured an advance of a dollar without a strike.

The granite cutters of the country are trying to establish a \$4.00-a-day minimum to be universal. The Chicago bosses have just signed up, and the strike has been called off.

The Philadelphia painters are on strike. They refuse to be "A. P. A.s" (American pack animals) any longer. All material must be delivered to and taken from jobs by the bosses. The painters there have awakened to the fact that a suit of clothes is easily spoiled. The Chicago painters are still "A. P. A.s"

The threatened strike of the switchmen on nineteen of the railroads entering Chicago has been called off, the railroads having conceded all of the demands made, except the Sunday and overtime rates. This is to be taken up later, but, like all "leftovers," will probably have to be settled by a strike, or a manifestation of force, in the near future.

Union garment workers of Chicago have begun a campaign for the organization of the fifty thousand tailors who work at that trade in Chicago. The New York victory is the inspiration, and it is working out well.

Every member is acting as an organizer, and are going to the homes of the workers to talk unionism to them.

A peculiar effect of the recent affiliation of the carpenters and bricklayers with the Chicago building trades council is that it will probably compel the master carpenters' and masons' associations to join the general body of the building trades employers, which treats directly with the building trades council. Like officials of labor unions in similar circumstances, the officials of the master carpenters' and masons' associations strenuously object to being absorbed by the larger body. They fear the loss of their positions, or, at least, of considerable prestige. The workers are not the only ones hard to organize; nor their organizations the only ones infested with grafters.

The most important strike of the year was that of the Painters. Getting \$4.80 for 8 hours, on April 1st they struck to enforce an advance of 50c. They had another important demand. They demanded that the bosses shall post copies of the specifications on every job, so that the painters can see what the contract calls for. The men claim that the bosses often fail to live up to the letter of the contract. Not that they care a rap, except that they lose by the crookedness as well as the owner, and they propose to protect their interests. If a contractor agrees to put five coats on a job and only puts on three, the painter gets only three days' work, where he should have five. That's what's the matter with Dauby. The bosses hated to do it, but they came through, after a month's idleness. All are back to work again.

A BIT OF SABOTAGE.

The following report from the firing line of the Illinois Central Railroad strike reads very "sabotage":

"Train No. 135 jumped the tracks in the yards and was delayed for some time. Passenger engine No. 1953 knocked out a cylinder head at Rockport, and they had to work a freight engine on a passenger train. Engine No. 1954, on a passenger train, lost guides and knocked out a cylinder head at Cecelia, Ky. Engine No. 1872, a local engine, had to pull a train in, and when it arrived at Central City the driving boxes were burning up."

LUCY PARSONS ARRESTED.

Lucy E. Parsons and George Markstall were arrested in Los Angeles on April 19th for selling literature without a license, and kept 24 hours locked up without being allowed to communicate the news of their arrest to their friends. Mrs. Parsons was subjected to the humiliation of being stripped of her clothing. Such stupid, petty tyranny is a worthy product of Mad Otis and his labor-baiting M. and M.

LEAGUE NO. 1, NELSON, B. C.**TROUBLE IN NELSON—FOR THE BOSS.**

After some discussion among the various unions, and in the Trades and Labor Council (the business organization of the unions), it was decided that the unions requiring improved conditions present their schedules together; and strike together, if necessary, to enforce the demands.

The employers refused to "come through;" so it was decided to celebrate the birthday of the working class, April 1st, by taking a vacation of indefinite length.

The only unpatriotic elements were the Brotherhood of Carpenters and the Amalgamated Carpenters, who were of the opinion that, owing to the financial conditions (or the lack of it), the boss should not be asked to give a birthday present. This element don't sleep very much at night, figuring out how the poor boss is going to get along. The dominating element is a boss carpenter, who is also Mayor of the town. [A later report says the carpenters laid down their tools and joined the strike, but made no demands.—Editor.]

The celebration began, with the exception of the aforementioned carpenters; and the spirit of solidarity shown was supreme. J. A. von Scholtz, organizer for the electricians, said it was as fine an exhibition as he has seen.

The town is like a combination of Sundays in the middle of the week. What few there are working consist of transfer men who own their own rigs; a few non-members employed by the retail stores, and the bosses themselves, who are chiefly small contractors, and still capable of making a bluff at a little work to improve their digestive organs. A case of forcible "eugenics" for them! They ought to be grateful to us for the opportunity, and should come through with extra compensation when matters are being fixed up.

"Peaceful picketing" and "moral suasion" of varying and diversified grades were the methods employed. Several black eyes and decorated faces resulted during the process.

The dear public—that gaseous body which is always demanding consideration during labor disputes, and to which presumably the workers don't belong—howled considerable. Their coal and other supplies were running out; and a little trouble arose owing to some of them taking out the teams themselves. To smooth matters it was decided to let the transfer men owning their own teams supply them.

The hospital also howled for coal and ice for its patients; but, upon representation from the directors that need existed, a wagon was loaded with the necessary supplies, and placarded "With permission of the Trades and Labor Council."

Incidents too numerous to mention occurred; but the fighting spirit couldn't be better—and also good-natured.

Tradesmen Hold Out for Laborers.

On the afternoon of the 1st, the electricians signed an agreement granting them 50c increase per day, but refused to go back until the others did. The electric power plant, which supplies the city with light and power, is a vulnerable point.

The machinists also obtained their schedule, but refused to return until the helpers got theirs. Latterly the machinists offered to accept 35c per hour instead of the 50c asked, if the laborers be considered.

The teamsters, also, not to be outdone, agreed to accept the old scale, if the laborers got their demands.

In fact, the bosses tried all the known tricks to make the men split up, and break the strike, but the men are wise to the situation.

It seemed to trouble the employers that the skilled trades should make common cause with the laborers, one of them remarking in an aggrieved tone that he did not think that combinations of the unions had been the feeling of the labor men in Nelson in the past, and another complaining that one of his men had not been allowed to finish his shift, but had been taken out.

The employers are strongly organized. At one meeting there were 51 present.

After holding up the city scavenger work for a week, it was decided to let it go ahead unhindered. Before this decision was arrived at two of the men, Hardy and Litchfield, were arrested; and, after conducting their own case, were fined \$20. It need not be here inferred that they were fined the 20 bucks

because they conducted their own case. The prosecution had not a leg to stand on, even according to their own law, as the men did not intimidate the driver concerned, contenting themselves with passing such words of praise as, "Ain't he a dandy with the lines!" But the intention undoubtedly was to make an example of them, and thus scare the strikers. And so that they would not take the jail sentence, the option was made 90 days.

In the meantime various committees of the men and employers had been meeting, and ultimately the differences were boiled down to that of the laborers. And there the matter stands at the present time. The employers wish to pay \$3 for a 9-hour day and the men want 40c per hour for an 8-hour day.

That the sentiments propagated by the I. W. W., and latterly by the Syndicalist, have borne fruit, goes without saying, and is only too manifest to question. While many of the agitators thought their work was just so much mis-spent energy, and the men paying little or no attention to what was being said, the ideas have filtered in just the same.

The moral to be drawn from our case is: No matter how conservative and lethargic the workers may appear, stay with them, and keep drilling the ideas in; they will bear fruit when action is called for.

And another moral can also be drawn: The Syndicalists, unlike the I. W. W., were here operating inside the unions not as disrupters, but as **builders-up**, as a solidifying element, welding the various units into a cohesive whole, producing a class-conscious and united action effect.

The result was surprising, both to themselves and the employers.

WM. CRAIG.

AUSTRALIA'S CORRUPT LABOR POLITICS.

Australia's slump has arrived; 5,000 unemployed demonstrated recently and tried to obtain work from the government, but failed. The building, boat and hat trades are at a standstill. Unemployed artisans are roaming the city in desperation. The wages boards, which the workers expected would accomplish so much, are being shattered like chaff. Evasions are being reported from many quarters. Recently a strike of gas workers happened, and the labor premier of New South Wales condemned the strike and appealed to the citizens to do gas stoking, thus acting as strike breakers. The Lord Mayor of Sydney and a number of students worked as blacklegs and were publicly thanked by the labor premier, proving that the worker lifted into power becomes a brutal tyrant.

The Australians have departed from the path of understanding and entered the city of the dead. Tyranny is paramount. Meeting no antagonist, it encroaches on liberty without the slightest fear. Conscription is turning into a despotism. Three boys have been flogged in Australia for disobeying orders of military fops. The federal labor government is jailing boys in batches of 30 for refusing to do the military drills. All this torture is endured because a labor government does the torturing, which demonstrates that democracy means the bludgeoning of the people by the people, for the people.

We celebrated the anniversary of the Paris Commune, pointing out success was insured as long as Direct Action was upheld. Failure commenced with the advent of politicians. I drew attention to the heroic revolution of the Mexicans, which was a continuance of the fight for liberty, equality and fraternity.

J. W. FLEMING,
Victoria, Australia.

LECTURES ON SYNDICALISM.

Laura Payne Emerson, the well-known California rebel, has arranged a lecture tour in the interests of Syndicalism as follows:

Los Angeles, May 2d to 10th; Ontario, May 11th; San Francisco, May 15th, 16th, 17th; Oakland, May 18th and 19th; Alameda May 20th; Palo Alto, May 21st; Chico, May 23d and 24th; Portland, May 26th, 27th 28th and 29th; Seattle, May 31st, June 1st and 2d; Tacoma, June 3d and 4th; Everett, June 5th and 6th.

All our readers at these points are urged to join in making these meetings a success.

Social workers report that you can buy a baby for \$2 or a poodle for \$100 in Boston. We'd like to ask President Wilson if he'd do anything to cut down the high cost of poodles.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY

Headquarters, 1214 Franklin Ave.; Open 7 to 11 p. m.
Week Days; also Sunday Afternoons
and Evenings.

Business Meeting Every Saturday at 8 p. m.

AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION OF IRON, STEEL AND TIN WORKERS.

Lodge No. 11, of Granite City, Ill., held their regular meeting Saturday, April 5. The principal business of the meeting was the election of delegates to the national convention, to be held in Fort Wayne, Ind., in May. Every delegate elected was a progressive. This is a brilliant victory for the militants, who are trying to place the Amalgamated Association in the vanguard of the labor movement. These delegates were elected by an overwhelming majority, which shows the members of the Amalgamated Association have good prospects of getting out of the quagmire that they have been struggling through for many years.

Molders, I. M. U. of N. A.

The I. M. U. of this locality are up and doing. The boys are becoming very active in spite of the many drawbacks. Coremakers' Local No. 426 is an active bunch of unionists. They are out to put St. Louis and vicinity on the map as a progressive center. The I. M. U. of this district now has an organizer in the field, and with the active ones assisting him in his work, things are taking on a lively turn. During the month nearly 100 members have been taken into the union. This includes the coremakers from Granite City. Local No. 426 has endorsed the Federated Strike Committee proposition.

Local No. 20, Waiters' Union.

The federation of strike committees proposition was endorsed at the regular meeting held April 23d. It was postponed from the meeting of April 16th, and the members therefore had one week to consider the proposition. And the fact that it was endorsed practically unanimously shows the members think well of the plan. Furthermore, Local No. 20 asks the Central Trades and Labor Union to act on the proposition. The C. T. & L. U. meets Sunday, April 27th, and no doubt the federation of strike committees will find many friends there, even should it be temporarily turned down. The waiters are making great success of their twice-a-month educational meeting.

Molders' Helpers and Laborers.

The Molders' Helpers and Laborers, a new union, has been organized at Granite City as a result of the live wires. They call themselves the Progressive Local. They proved their progressiveness by tying up the Commonwealth Steel plant during their strike a few weeks since. The bosses conceded the demands of the workers, the latter getting an increase in wages and recognition of their union.

PROTECT THE BURGLAR.

Under this title the Berlin "Ulk" satirizes the rottenness of capitalism as follows:

"What would Germany, or for that matter any other country, do without the burglar? Two hundred fifty thousand night watchmen would be breadless if it were not for the burglar.

"More than 250 million dollars are invested in safes, alarm signals, safety locks, etc., and not less than 25,000 workers employed in this industry would be on the streets at once if the burglar disappeared.

"Ten thousand 'cops' would all of a sudden become useless ornaments; and of course the trade in revolvers, knives, black-jacks, etc., would be severely injured.

"Even the theaters, moving picture shows, as well as literature would suffer greatly by the exit of the burglar. And don't forget the millions spent on detectives.

What matters the paltry million taken annually by the burglar, in comparison to the vast number he gives employment to.

"No, it is clear the State ought to protect the thieving industry for the benefit of the entire country."

This Jap agitation is good for the war business in Japan also.

THE REVOLT OF LABOR

One of the most remarkable situations in the history of the American labor movement was that caused by the recent revolt of the Boston telephone girls. Goaded to desperation by their miserable wages and working conditions, 2,200 of these girls decided to strike if their demands were not granted. The telephone company, realizing the strategic position of the hello girls and their power to paralyze Boston's industrial life by a strike, took most vigorous measures to prevent or break the threatened strike. While sparring for time by means of conferences, etc., they sent hasty calls for scabs to their offices in surrounding cities. By means of threats and bribes, about 1,000 girl operators in various cities were induced to become scabs. They were loaded into special coaches, all properly equipped with chaperones, and rushed to Boston. They were there lodged at the most fashionable hotels, and generally made much of during the several days they awaited the performance of their heroic functions as scabs. Meanwhile the Boston telephone girls received concessions from their employers, and the threatened strike was averted. The silk stocking scabs de luxe were then hurried back to their homes and jobs to slave in readiness for the next opportunity to more securely fasten the fetters about their own necks by breaking the strike of their more courageous sisters. Truly a disgusting exhibition of working class ignorance and cowardice, relieved only by the gallant uprising of the Boston girls.

The Erdman Act arbitration board that has been considering the railroad firemen's demands has rendered its decision. As was to be expected, the firemen got the worst of it. While a few concessions were granted them, the principal ones they contended for, such as the employing of two firemen upon the larger engines, were denied them. In consequence, the firemen are much discontented, and the principle of arbitration has received another much needed jolt.

During the past year the workers have had greater and more costly experience with arbitration than ever before. Vast numbers of them, in various industries and at different times, have submitted their grievances to arbitration boards. And always with the same result: a defeat for the workers. Soon the latter will learn that they have nothing to hope for from the arbitration hocus-pocus, per se, and that the only way for them to secure concessions is to build up powerful labor unions, and with them wring these concessions from their masters by brute force; or, as suffices in many cases, by displaying a thorough willingness to use this force. Once the workers have such militant and powerful unions, they can coerce "justice" from every arbitration board, however constructed, and until they are thus in a position to use coercion, they can expect "justice" from no arbitration board, no matter of whom it consists.

A fine illustration has been recently given of the growing solidarity of the Chicago building trades unions: The marble-setters declared a general strike on March 1st. Not daring to replace them by scabs, the bosses ignored their strike, giving them the "silent treatment." By making no effort to finish the marble work, or by changing the specifications so as to permit the use of other material than marble, they hoped to break the strike when the marble work would be completed according to the original specifications. Perceiving the danger in these tactics, the other building trades unions decided to declare general strikes on every building requiring marble work. Accordingly, several skyscrapers were completely tied up, the various craft unions, in spite of their alleged handicap of autonomy, striking as one union. These tactics quickly reduced the bosses to submission, and they satisfactorily settled the marble-workers' difficulty.

At the end of March the A. F. of L. had 2,007,650 members. This is the high-water mark in its history, and an increase of about 250,000 since the convention last November. The increase is to be ascribed to a number of causes, chief of which are the great number of strikes A. F. of L. unions have won recently, the intense organizing campaigns being carried on by the various international unions, and the general wave of enthusiasm and militancy known as the "Labor Forward Movement." Judging by the new spirit prevailing in the A. F. of L., it will be but a short time until it will add another million to its already huge hosts.

Trouble is looked for in 1915 in the Chicago building trades, as the bosses are making all contracts to expire at that time. It is believed they are preparing for a general lockout in the hope of thus crushing the aggressively militant Chicago building trades unions. From the temper of the latter, it is safe to prophesy that the bosses will have a merry job on their hands in 1915.

The great Belgian general strike for manhood suffrage has been called off. Exact details are not yet at hand, but according to press reports the settlement was reached upon the vague promise of the government to appoint a committee to consider electoral reforms.

The big I. W. W. strike of Paterson silk workers is developing into a second Lawrence affair. At present writing preparations are being made to ship several thousand of the strikers' children to neighboring cities to be there cared for. Many of the strike leaders are being thrown into jail on trumped-up charges.

In its six weeks of existence the new A. F. of L. lumber workers' union organizing in the Northwest has secured 5,000 members. An intense agitation is being carried on throughout the lumber districts, and judging by the results being achieved, undoubtedly before the winter sets in the lumber workers, for the first time, will have a substantial union organized.

WM. Z. FOSTER.

BE IN THE VAN OF PROGRESS.
To the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters:
Brothers:—For some years past, the International Federation of Pottery Workers has appealed to the N. B. of O. P. to join the organization. Those appeals have been made in vain.

The A. F. of L., to which we belong, is affiliated with the European unions, and nearly all unions composing it are organized internationally. If we desire to be in the van of progress we must at once fall into line.

Everything in the march of progress leads to internationalism. All discoveries and inventions contribute to the suppression of artificial boundaries. Telegraph and telephones encircle the earth; railroads run in all directions; vessels cross the ocean—all tend to annihilate distances, and the mobility of the world's races points the way to internationalism.

There already exists an international exchange of ideas, in the shape of books, reviews, and newspapers, which carries through the world over, and we now know what is going on in Europe and even in China; knowledge is ours which was beyond the reach of our forefathers.

In the great human laboratory the fusion of all men without distinction of race, is taking place. This has to be so, in order that we may reach our final goal as unionists—the possession of food and all the other necessities and comforts of life, which should be at the disposal of all, as certain and as free as the air we breathe. For this purpose we must unite, not only in cities, states and countries, but internationally.

It may be said that we do not need the fraternal solidarity of workers of other countries. That is a very narrow, and to my mind, selfish view to take; for if we do not need it they do; and there can be no doubt that in fraternizing with European Potters, we would increase our power, besides contributing immensely to the progress of unionism.

As a whole, our conditions may be bearable, but what of the individuals in our ranks, who, on account of sickness or other trouble, are living in misery and poverty even lacking bread for their starving children? In this imperfectly organized society, what happens to one of us sooner or later happens to all.

Brothers, I appeal to you to instruct your delegates to the next convention of the N. B. of O. P. to use every effort to bring about the affiliation of our National Union to the International Federation of Pottery Workers.

Fraternally yours,

JULES SCARCERIAUX,

Delegate to the C. L. U. from Local No. 45.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH MEXICO?

The Metropolitan Magazine for May has an article "What's the Matter With Mexico," by John Kenneth Turner. "Seven thousand families hold practically all of the arable land." That's what's the matter.

That is why close to 100,000 lives have been sacrificed since the war began three years ago. The struggle is not to change men at the head, but to get the land for the men at the bottom. Turner shows if this was just an ordinary political revolution, Madero would be today the president of a peaceful people.

Madero failed to help the men below, and he went down himself, struck by the reactionists who would not dare show their faces had Madero the common men behind him.

And the United States government sent the Magons to jail on perjured evidence. Sworn statements by men who collected the perjured stuff at \$10 a day are before me. These men are in McNeils Island prison, put there by perjury, and you and I are silent about it. Write to Regeneracion, 809 Yale St., Los Angeles, for copies of the affidavits.

SOCIETY NOTES.

Carl Pearson has been arrested by the United States officials on the charge of using the mails to injure the Illinois Central railroad.

He has mailed pictures of wrecks and warnings to the public not to patronize the I. C. or S. P. railroads, saying they are unsafe because of broken-down engines and cars in the service, due to the strike of shopmen.

Pearson claims all he has written is true, and that he cannot be prevented from telling the truth. We will see if truth wins.

Every division point yard on the Southern Pacific is surrounded by a high board fence. Armed bulls parade. Trains arrive and leave decorated by the crew on the lookout for 'boes who are filling the journals of the cars with sand at the slightest opportunity.

The Jesuit magazine, "America," says we have no respect for private property. Pope De Leon says ditto.

J. A. JONES.

Books and Pamphlets For Sale by the Syndicalist Publishing Association.

A Physician in the House, Dr. J. H. Greer.....	\$2.00
Ancient Society, Lewis H. Morgan.....	\$1.50
What Is Property? P. Proudhon.....	1.50
Flowers of the Mind, the best poems.....	1.00
Life of Albert R. Parsons, with a history of the Anarchist trial.....	1.50
Anarchism and Other Essays, Emma Goldman.....	1.10
Love's Coming of Age, Edward Carpenter.....	1.00
The Physical Basis of Mind and Morale, Fitch.....	1.00
Thoughts of a Fool.....	1.00
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Direct Action vs. Legislation, J. B. Smith.....	.05
The Rational Education of Children, Ferrer.....	.05

HENDERSON BAY ROUTE—Steamer Tyconda leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on Henderson Bay, including Home, week days at 2:30 p. m., returning next morning. Sunday at 8 a. m., returning same day.

COMMUNISTIC LIBRARY—Meets every Thursday night from 8 to 10 o'clock; every Sunday morning from 10 to 12 o'clock. Free lessons in English and Esperanto. Books in any language free. 711 Hudson street, Trenton, N. J.

FOR SALE—Cheap—in Home Colony; an acre with four-room house, chicken house, bearing trees; good view. Apply M., Rasnick Home, Lakebay, Wash.

"WHY?" A magazinelet of the Revolution. 1423 S. Washington street, Tacoma, Wash. Monthly, 60c a year.

THE SOCIAL WAR. A revolutionary weekly. 227 West St., New York. Subscription voluntary.

MOTHER EARTH. Monthly. Social science and literature. 55 W. 28th St., New York. Yearly, \$1.

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